

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE  
Week ending the 29th November 1902.

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## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 15th November fails to understand why the Police Commission, while sitting at Dacca, did not see fit to examine any witness from the Chittagong Division. That division is certainly as much a portion of British territory as any other division in Bengal, and the police of that division is not certainly such an immaculate body as to need no reform. Babu Jatra Mohan Sen of Chittagong, Babu Radha Kanta Aich of Noakhali, Babus Kailas Chandra Datta and Ananga Mohan Naha of Comilla, Babu Kali Nath Nandi, who was at one time District Superintendent of Police, and Mr. Geake, Magistrate of Chittagong, ought to have been examined by the Commission. It was impossible for the Dacca and Mymensingh witnesses to speak about the police administration of Chittagong

PRATINIDHI,  
Nov. 15th, 1902.

2. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 19th November says that as every villager is obliged to pay the chaukidari tax, it often becomes a source of oppression to the poor. Their things are sold if they fail to pay the tax. In this manner they have been maintaining the chaukidars for the last thirty years. But it is impossible to understand of what use these chaukidars are to the villagers. The present village chaukidar is a Government servant, busy carrying out the orders of the police. Villagers have lost their former control over him, and he is in most cases found to be culpably negligent of his patrolling duties in the village. Could there be a more absurd arrangement? The chaukidar does the villager no good, but often does him harm. If he bears a grudge against a villager, he makes a false report against him to the police, and the poor villager is dragged through all the stages of a humiliating police enquiry and obliged to gratify the investigating officer handsomely in order to save himself from the worst.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Nov. 19th, 1902.

The levy of the chaukidari tax from villagers is neither legal nor equitable. It is illegal because Lord Cornwallis gave his word that there would be no police tax. It is inequitable because those who pay the chaukidar cannot command his services. The stamp tax was imposed in 1797 to meet the cost of the police. This tax fetches enough to maintain the police in its present status and to effect any necessary reform. It is hoped that the Police Commission will consider this matter and recommend the abolition of the chaukidari tax.

3. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 20th November says that the illegality of the chaukidari tax and the uselessness of the chaukidari establishment should be made clear to the members of the Police Commission. People have no faith in chaukidars, whilst many of them believe that the chaukidars are at the bottom of all petty thefts committed in a village. To the villager the tax is therefore a *zulm*, and this tax has at present assumed an oppressive magnitude.

JYOTI,  
Nov. 20th, 1902.

When the maintenance of the police of the country was taken away from the hands of zamindars and the lands which they held rent-free were confiscated by the Government, Lord Cornwallis gave his word that no police tax would ever be imposed on the country. The chaukidari tax is a direct violation of this pledge solemnly given by a Governor-General and embodied in an Act of the Supreme Legislative Council. It is hoped that a proper consideration of these and other points in this connection will induce the Commission to recommend the abolition of the tax.

4. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 20th November says that a prostitute of Balyagram within the jurisdiction of the Jaldhaka police-station in the Rangpur district was most brutally murdered just before the Puja, but the police has as yet failed to trace the offender or offenders. It is suspected that the crime was committed by some paramour or paramours of the woman. It does not speak well for the Jaldhaka police that it has failed to trace the offenders not only in this case, but in one or two other cases of murder, &c., which lately occurred within its jurisdiction.

RANGPUR  
DIKPRAKASH,  
Nov. 20th, 1902.

RANGALAYA,  
Nov. 22nd, 1902.

5. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November makes the following observations in the course of an article on the police:—

The police must be always corrupt.

Englishmen have not come to this country for the purpose of performing acts of piety or practising religious observances. Their principal object in coming here is to make money, the administration of the country, as an auxiliary to the acquisition of money, being only a secondary object. What they want is money, and that they must have, whether by hook or by crook. It is for money that you have the Sunset Law, the excise trade, the opium monopoly, the court-fee and stamp duties, and the certificate procedure. It is therefore necessary that the people from whom this money is to be raised should be kept down with something like thoroughness. A little oppression and harassment is unavoidable under the circumstances. This oppression is directly committed with the aid of the police. As it is necessary to govern the people and inspire them with a fear of Englishmen with the aid of the police, Government cannot do without it in any matter. You have a wedding in your family for which you want music. You must therefore send a notice to the police. Births and deaths must be reported at the police-station. There is scope for the services of the police in famines, floods, and fires, in charities, entertainments, fairs and exhibitions, in census operations, in the practice of religious observances, in ascertaining prices-current and market rates, and in the regulation of brothels. We see the constable's *pagree* and his acts of highhandedness and tremble in fear. The police takes advantage of this fear and makes money.

Bribery and corruption will prevail in the police so long as Englishmen govern India on the existing method, and not even ten Commissions like the one appointed by Lord Curzon will succeed in removing the prevailing corruption. We believe that there are many European police officers who would not refuse a bribe if it was only made sufficiently large. Every body in the police from the constable upwards takes bribes, and nothing will check this evil propensity in the members of the police force.

NAVA YUG,  
Nov. 22nd, 1902.

6. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November draws the attention of the Calcutta Police to the practice of many natives in the town who set up firms with European names for the sale of patent medicines. The

Firms under false European names in Calcutta.

*Hitavadi* and *Basumati* newspapers are just now advertising a medicine named 'European Danzyne' which is said to be sold by G. Harrington & Co. at 120, Harrison Road, which contains only a two-storied hut inhabited by prostitutes. The latter newspaper is publishing another advertisement for the sale of 'American Pyarolla' by W. Wallace & Co. at 14, Wellington Street. The owner of this firm is one Mohendra Lal Ghose of Sri Nath Dass' Lane in Bow Bazar. Some jewellers of Akhil Mistri's Lane also publish advertisements under European names. *Power and Guardian*, for instance, has been publishing an advertisement for the sale of watches by Manfield & Co., Post Office Harrison Road, Calcutta, which is not certainly owned by a European. The police ought to bestir themselves to save the public from such swindlers.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA-BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Nov. 19th, 1902

7. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 19th November says:—

Injustice done in a case by the Subdivisional Officer of Giridih.

Thakur Nemnarayan Sing is a Rajput zamindar of Giridih and owner of half of the Vandari pargana within the subdivision. Messrs. F. F. Christian & Co. are owners of three annas of the pargana. To prevent the stealing of wood from the jungles in the pargana, Thakur Nemnarayan had instructed his men to take to him any one found cutting wood in them. One day, Jhari Ray, a sepoy in his service, found a number of coolies cutting wood in the jungles, and snatched away their axes and the pieces of wood they had cut. These coolies happened to be employes under Messrs. F. F. Christian & Co. The Manager of the Company reported the matter to the police. The police made an enquiry, and failing to arrest Jhari Ray arrested Thakur Nemnarayan, his master. The prisoner was brought before Mr. Dentith, the Subdivisional Officer of

Giridih, who refused him bail and sent him to *hajat*. A petition was submitted to the High Court in his favour, but as the Hon'ble Court was at that time adjourning for the Puja vacation, it declined to take up the matter, and advised his pleader to apply again to Mr. Dentith for bail. The pleader returned to Giridih and procured Thakur Nemnarayan's release by making him tender an apology.

We are at a loss to find out what Thakur Nemnarayan's offence was. He only sought to protect the wood in a zamindari, one half of which he owned, and for this he was treated like the blackest thief. The Manager of the European Company is a European and well-known to be a friend of Mr. Dentith's. However that may be, we doubt whether the case would have taken the turn it did take if the complainant had not been a European. O God! When will the children of the soil be saved from injustice?

8. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st November says that Mr. R. Krishna, Magistrate of Bogra, came in the course of his tour to Kutubpur on the 22nd August last and immediately after his arrival ascertained from chaukidars, village boys and others the names of the bad characters and *badmashes* in the village, and told the Sub-Inspector of Police to make enquiries about them. On receiving the Sub-Inspector's report, the Magistrate ordered the prosecution of Ahammad Akanda and six others. The accused were arrested and sent to *hajat*. From the record it appears that the Magistrate, accompanied by the Sub-Inspector and a Head-Constable, tried to procure evidence against the accused from villagers who are well-known to be their enemies.

The accused were then brought up from *hajat* before the Sub-Inspector, who was surrounded by a large number of villagers. The Sub-Inspector asked the villagers what they knew about the accused. Some of the respectable villagers spoke freely and gave the accused a good character. It is said that they were immediately sent to *hajat*, and others thereupon fearing to give evidence went away. The Magistrate held his cutcherry at 5 P. M. that day. The accused were brought up, and some evidence being recorded, they were asked to cross-examine the witnesses. It being impossible for them, illiterate villagers as they were, to cross-examine witnesses themselves, they prayed for permission to engage a mukhtear. To this the Magistrate turned a deaf ear, as he also did to their prayer to be released on bail. At 9 P. M. the same night, the Magistrate had the accused again brought up before him and asked them if they had engaged a mukhtear. On being told by the accused that it would be impossible for them to engage a mukhtear unless they were released on bail, the Magistrate fixed the following Monday as the day of hearing of the case, and remanded the accused to *hajat*.

The case was taken up at 8 A. M. on the appointed day, and after recording evidence against the accused, the Magistrate ordered each of them to furnish security to the extent of Rs. 200 for good behaviour for a year or, in default, to undergo rigorous imprisonment for the same period.

If the above narrative be a true one, it is for the authorities to consider whether a despotic Magistrate like R. Krishna is fit to remain in charge of the criminal judicial administration of a district.

9. The same paper says that two men, named Besaratuiddin Sardar and Sabuktulla Sarkar, were sent up by the Dinajpur police on a charge under section 457 of the Indian Penal Code. The accused petitioned to the Deputy Magistrate in charge to be released on bail, as the police had not sent up an A Form nor produced any evidence against them. The Deputy Magistrate ordered as follows:—"I do not see that there is any case against Besaratuiddin and Sabuktulla. They will be released on their furnishing Rs. 100 bail and recognisance." But Mr. Garrett, the District Magistrate, a week later, cancelled this order. He wrote:—"The Deputy Magistrate had not seen the diaries 33 and 34 when he passed the above order. There appears to be ample evidence against these two men who have been known for sometime as notorious criminals. I do not consider it would be safe to release them on bail, so I cancel the above order and direct that they be detained in *hajat*."

But if the men were able to furnish bail, what necessity was there to detain them in *hajat* before their trial? Was it also right on the part of the

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 21st, 1902.

HITAVADI.

Magistrate to call them "notorious criminals" before they had been proved to be such?

It is now clear that the Deputy Magistrate who will hold the trial will not have the courage to let off Besaratuiddin and Sabuktulla even if he finds them innocent, because the Magistrate has already expressed a bias against them. Magistrates like Mr. Garrett are a stain upon the judicial administration of the country.

NAVA YUG,  
Nov. 22nd, 1902.

10. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November complains that the practice of Mr. Abdur Rahim, Northern Division Magistrate in Calcutta, of too often rejecting complaints, has put a premium upon crime in the Northern Division of the town. It is believed that the Magistrate rejects cases with the object of lightening his file. The Magistrate's practice of invariably disbelieving the police, dismissing cases sent up by the police, and censuring police officers in his judgments is extremely objectionable.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Nov. 24th, 1902.

11. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 24th November draws attention to the inconvenience which is caused to parties and pleaders by the practice of the first Subordinate Judge of Midnapore of holding his court till a late hour in the evening.

Though the District Judge ordered the closing of the courts immediately on receipt of news of Sir John Woodburn's death, and although on hearing of this order many parties and pleaders went home with a sad heart, the two Subordinate Judges kept their courts open and dismissed many cases for non-appearance of plaintiffs or their pleaders, and decreed many cases *ex parte* in consequence of a similar default on the part of defendants or their pleaders.

(d)—Education.

KASHIPUR NIVASI,  
Nov. 19th, 1902.

12. The *Kashipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 19th November says that the work of inspection of schools in the Backergunge district greatly suffers on account of the smallness of the number of inspecting officers. Every other district within the Dacca Division has two Deputy Inspectors of Schools, but Backergunge has only one. It is hoped that another Deputy Inspector will be appointed in the district. The writer will be glad to see the popular Sub-Inspector Babu Umes Chandra Datta promoted to the Deputy Inspectorship and placed in Backergunge in addition to Maulvi Asaulla, the present Deputy Inspector.

JYOTI,  
Nov. 20th, 1902.

13. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 20th November says that the Head Panditship of the Patia High English School in the Chittagong district having become vacant, the school authorities appointed Pandit Sarat Chandra Nyayabhusan, Head Pandit of Kazim Ali Miya's School, to the post as the fittest man among the candidates. After he had worked for some time, the school authorities dismissed him on the plea of inefficiency, and appointed another man in his place. The Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division, has, however, issued an order that so long as Pandit Sarat Chandra Nyayabhusan will not be reappointed in the place, the Government aid to the school will be withheld. The following facts should be considered in deciding the case:—

(1) The promotions Pandit Sarat Chandra had received in Kazim Ali Miya's school for his efficiency.

(2) The report which the Head Master of the local municipal school submitted to its Secretary about the efficiency which the Pandit had shown during his one year's service in it.

(3) The efficiency with which he has worked in the Patia school during the short period of his service there.

(4) Whether he has any quarrel with the Secretary or any member of the school committee.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Nov. 23rd, 1902.

14. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 23rd November has the following:—  
Mr. Pedler's selection of text-books.

The man who is able to gain his ends by keeping people pleased with sweet words is the

man who is praised and admired by wise men. Such men artfully throw dust into the eyes of the public, and so skilfully do they accomplish their cherished objects that the public always find it difficult to guess their secret motives until it is too late. All this is the outcome of tortuous statesmanship. Unfortunately for India there is at present no lack of officials to whom as a class the foregoing description would be applicable. Mr. Pedler, it seems to us, is an officer whose acts warrant the assumption that he is no unworthy representative of the class.

When Mr. Pedler, as Director of Public Instruction, first addressed himself to the task of reforming the system of vernacular education, his plausible and captivating arguments led everybody to believe that the highest educational authority in the Province was really making an endeavour to confer a lasting benefit on this poor country. But the public are now alarmed to find that there lies under the transparent water a shark widely gaping for its prey.

The list of text-books for the Middle English, Middle Vernacular, Upper Primary and Lower Primary examinations for 1904, published in the last issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*, furnishes clear evidence of Mr. Pedler's greatness and glory. A glance at this list will enable everybody to discover the object with which this able and wise official set to himself the task of prescribing text-books for those examinations. It is extremely doubtful whether the public, before Mr. Pedler furnished them with an example, could even imagine the length to which a man may be carried by a desire to serve his own countrymen. Praised be Mr. Pedler's love for his fellow countrymen!

We have already pointed out that the system inaugurated by Mr. Pedler will prove disastrous to the Bengalis. There cannot be the shadow of a doubt that if it remains in force it will lead, in time, to the disappearance of the light of learning from among the Bengalis. The Imperial Anglo-Indians will have their heart's desire gratified on the day on which the Bengalis shall be deprived of the means of education and converted into a nation of illiterate fools. We are a conquered people, and as such must walk along the path that our conquerors will mark out for us.

It appears from the list of text-books just published that Mr. Pedler is determined to see Messrs. MacMillan & Co. obtain an accession of income. What a pity that there should be a lack of Bengali authors and Bengali publishers in their own province! What a pity that the men who have, for the service of their native land, consecrated their lives to the service of vernacular literature and are labouring day and night to enrich the Bengali language in imitation of the example left them by the late Vidyasagar and Akshay Kumar Datta are considered by Mr. Pedler incompetent and undeserving of Government patronage, while those who are aliens in race and creed and would require the aggregate lifetime of fourteen generations to master the Bengali alphabet, are pronounced by him the only fit teachers of Bengali students! What a mockery! It only remains for Vidyasagar and Akshay Kumar Datta, Bankim and Romes Chandra, Nabin and Hem Chandra to hold their precious writings to their breast and seek a watery grave in the depths of the Bay of Bengal!

For the nine educational divisions under him, Mr. Pedler has prescribed for the Middle English and Middle Vernacular Examinations altogether 63 text-books at the rate of 7 for each such division. Now out of these 63 books no less than 32 are the property of Messrs. MacMillan and Company, who are also the proprietors of no less than 28 out of the 54 text-books prescribed for the Upper Primary Examination and of no less than 9 out of the 18 text-books fixed for the Lower Primary Examination for the said nine divisions. Next come Messrs. Longmans, Green and Company, who also have been given a share of the patronage. The remainder, which is very small, has been divided among Bengali authors. Verily, it is an *acmé* of impartiality which is shown by Mr. Pedler in the distribution of State patronage.

This is not all. It is stated in a note appended to the list that in the event of a publisher failing to make any of his selected text-books available for use in due time, the corresponding publication by Messrs. MacMillan will be adopted. That firm has become the authors or publishers of works on Bengali literature, while Bengalis have come to be the authors or publishers of English works. Such an abnormal arrangement is both amusing and deplorable, and the public are not certainly so obtuse as to be unable to see the object with which

it has been made. The present arrangement is, in short, only a prelude to the massacre of Bengali authors which will be perpetrated in the course of time, and in justification of which the official apologist will have recourse to the plea of "survival of the fittest."

BANKURA  
DARPAH,  
Nov. 23rd, 1902.

15. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd November says that an official letter has recently been addressed to the Managing Committee of the Bankura Hindu Girls' School asking it if it has any objection to the transformation of the school into a model school in accordance with the scheme propounded in a circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction. The above school is the best of its kind in Bankura town and has worked most satisfactorily since its establishment in 1867. The disestablishment of such a school for the purpose of an experiment is extremely undesirable. The members of the School Committee find themselves between the two horns of a dilemma. On the one hand they are loath to give up the school for an experiment. On the other hand they fear they may forfeit their aid by refusing to give it up. Bankura town has a number of girls' schools including a large boarding school conducted by missionaries. It therefore does not require a model school for girls. Let such schools be established in such places as are in want of girls' schools, and it is believed that it is in this way that the Director's desire to spread female education may be best realised.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

NAVA YUG,  
Nov. 22nd, 1902.

16. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November draws the attention of the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality to a Food Inspector whom the writer saw on Sunday morning last come to the Simla Bazar accompanied by a chaprasi and a servant with a bazar basket and go away in fifteen minutes' time with the basket full of fish and vegetables presented to him by the stall-keepers, without doing the least inspection. The Inspector was clad in *khaki* and was about fifty or fifty-two years of age.

Very large quantities of fish come into the Colcutta markets every day in this season, and as each day's supply is not sold in the course of the day, much stale and rotten fish is sold, causing outbreaks of cholera among the consumers. The Health Department should, therefore, keep a sharp eye on the fish markets in Calcutta during this season.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 21st, 1902.

17. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st November complains that on the night of the 4th November last, as soon as he and a companion of his alighted at the Mirpur station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway from a third class carriage, a railway servant, who appeared to be a signaller, demanded from them two intermediate class fares. On being refused, the man went to the Assistant Station Master and after some talk with him came back and peremptorily repeated his demand. For fear of being insulted, the correspondent paid the amount demanded. Such extortions by railway servants are not rare.

HITAVADI.

18. Another correspondent of the same paper makes the following complaints :—

Railway complaints,

(1) The lamp at the foot of the stairs leading down from the up-platform in the Konnagar station on the East Indian Railway is not lighted at train time at night, thereby causing great inconvenience to passengers.

(2) The Station Master of the above station often employs his son, who is aged only eleven or twelve, to sell tickets to passengers. The boy frequently makes mistakes in calculating the change to be returned to purchasers of tickets.

(3) The practice of the Station Master of Saoraphuli on the same line, of commencing the sale of tickets only a few minutes before a train comes in, seriously inconveniences passengers, owing to the crush which always prevails

at that station. Passengers are often left behind for being unable to purchase tickets.

19. A third correspondent of the same paper complains that while Mr. Cooper, Traffic Manager of the Assam-Bengal Railway, has reduced expenditure by abolishing the posts of *panipandes* and *chaukidars* at all stations on that line, thereby causing great suffering and inconvenience to passengers, he has appointed, in the absence of any necessity whatever, two additional ticket-checkers, who are both Eurasians, and a Eurasian Chief Traffic Inspector. The Eurasian who was removed from the Laksam Station for incompetency as a Station Master has been given the post of Chief Traffic Inspector. One of the Eurasian ticket-checkers is an employé who was formerly dismissed for some criminal offence on the Gauhati section for which he was punished by a law court. The three posts seem, indeed, to have been created with the sole object of providing for three Eurasians. Men who have not passed the examination for Station Masterships or have only recently passed it are being appointed to the charge of big and important stations.

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 21st, 1902.

20. Referring to the Irrigation Commission, the *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November says that Bengal is irrigated both by rivers and rain-water. But the advantages of both are lost for want of proper arrangements and suitable methods. Silting up of rivers on the one hand and the obstruction caused by railroads to the drainage of the fields on the other are doing immense harm. Nothing but harm is expected from the excavation of *khals* in districts like Murshidabad, Pabna, Faridpur, Nadia, 24-Parganas, Jessore, Barisal, Dacca, and Noakhali. The elevated banks of *khals* will obstruct the drainage of water accumulated in the fields. Already the obstruction caused by railroads is doing great mischief in the shape of malaria and frequent inundations. If to this obstruction is added obstruction arising from the elevated banks of *khals*, the country will be deluged by light showers. Again, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to keep these banks in proper order. The soft clay will be washed away by rain-water and carried down into the beds of the *khals* which will in consequence silt up. Floods occur almost every year in the districts of East Bengal. These floods will within a few years silt up the *khals*.

RANGALAYA,  
Nov. 22nd, 1902.

21. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 25th November complains that a few days ago as soon as the Panjab mail-train arrived at Rawalpindi, the railway employes forced the 3rd class passengers in some carriages to come out in order to reserve those carriages for other passengers, dak and railway stores. The poor passengers thus expelled were placed in an absolutely helpless condition. Such conduct on the part of the railway employes should not go unnoticed.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Nov. 25th, 1902.

(h)—General.

22. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st November complains that the native tradesmen in Calcutta are assessed to the income-tax in a most arbitrary and unsatisfactory manner, the assessors being extremely eager to show an increase of revenue from this source. Thanks to the Municipality and the rigour of the Plague Regulations, native shops are frequently required to be whitewashed, but the assessors consider this lime washing as a sign of increased prosperity, and forthwith transfer the owners from a lower class of assesseees to a higher, thereby making them liable to pay higher assessments. The amount of tax to be paid is fixed by the assessors on the strength of pure conjecture, and a notice is sent to the assessee requiring him to pay the amount within a certain period or produce his account books. If objections are filed, a day is fixed for the production of the books.

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 21st, 1902.

When the books are produced, the work of examination begins. Purchases and sales are noted and profits calculated. Interest to be paid on capital is fixed most arbitrarily. Everybody bearing the names owned by the proprietors of a firm is considered a partner, and any money paid to such a person, even if he be an outsider, and appearing in the books, is

regarded as the firm's money held *benami*. The assessors make no allowance for the charge for contingencies, except such as is incurred only on account of stamps and postage labels and post-cards. Nor is any allowance made, as a rule, for the ordinary expenditure incurred by native *aratdar* firms in finding board and lodgings for their mufassal customers or for that incurred in the purchase of stationery. Even when the account books disclose a clear loss, the assesseees are not totally exempted, but are required to pay a smaller assessment for a certain period. Appeals to the Board from the Collector's decision, as a rule, prove unsuccessful! Hindustani tradesmen know well how to deal with the assessors. Most of them have no proper account books, occasionally make themselves scarce, and change the style of their firms, thereby evading all liability to pay the income-tax. It is only the respectable Bengali firms who are unable to resort to such dishonest expedients that are subjected to injustice and oppression. Why should firms which are in a position to produce account books kept systematically and written up to date, be required to pay the tax for a year in which they are clearly found to have sustained loss? But while such is the treatment accorded to honest tradesmen who are never unwilling to pay the tax on their *bona fide* incomes, the assessors are perfectly powerless to touch the pockets of the hundreds of *dalals* who make large taxable incomes without being guilty of the folly of employing servants, renting shops, or of doing anything for which they can be brought within the purview of the Income Tax Act.

BANGAVASI,  
Nov. 22nd, 1902.

23. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November refers to the punishment which has been inflicted on the 9th Lancers and says:—

The punishment of the 9th Lancers. Who can say what the effect of the punishment will be? It is not likely that it will have no deterrent effect at all. Lord Curzon, at all events, will win fame for the punishment he has inflicted, and if in consequence of it fewer natives are killed by Europeans, England will acquire glory through his virtuous deed.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 20th, 1902.

24. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th November learns from a Urdu newspaper of Hyderabad that one day when the British Resident was walking in a street in Hyderabad a sepoy of the Nizam's Government happened to pass by him. That a British Resident could walk on foot was beyond the wit of that simple man and he neglected to make obeisance to the *Sahab*. The *Sahab* smelt insult in it, and asked the sepoy if he knew who he was. The man replied with great humility and said that he did not recognise *Huzur*. *Huzur*, however, handed him over to the Residency police which, in its turn, sent him to the town *Kotawal*.

Why should the Lord, before whom the Nizam himself bows his head, be agitated to see a poor common man neglecting to offer him a *salaam*? It is difficult for an illiterate native to distinguish one whiteman from another. If therefore European officials display such fondness for *salaams*, Indians will have to behave to every pantalooned whiteman as if he were the Governor-General.

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 21st, 1902.

25. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st November says that though it is only a year and-a-half since the Rana of Dholpur died, rumours are being already heard about the mismanagement of the State. The Rana left some debts when he died, and as Government took the management of the State into its own hands on the Rana's demise, it was hoped that the debts would be soon cleared off and the State exchequer would return to a prosperous condition. After a minute examination of the revenue and expenditure of the State, the Political Agent decided to pay the debts from revenue. But suddenly that intention was given up, and with the object of retrenching expenditure, the services of the Dewan, who used to get Rs. 500 a month, were dispensed with and a few small posts were abolished. On the other hand, however, Mr. Clogstoun, tutor to the Rana's son, was appointed Superintendent of the State on a salary of Rs. 1,500 a month, and two new posts on Rs. 500 and Rs. 400 were created

for Sardars Umrao Singh and Bhakat Singh respectively, and Rs. 12,000 began to be paid to the Political Agent. It was also decided to sell off the State jewels and other moveable property. Those European jewellers who had themselves sold jewels to the late Rana were the men who were appointed to sell the State jewels, and the jewels they had sold to the Rana for a lakh of rupees are not now fetching twenty thousand in the market. In many cases, the jewellers, out of sympathy for the State, are themselves condescending to purchase at small prices articles which are not finding purchasers in the market!

Government, it is said, has with a view to increase the income of the State directed the sale of the jewels and the investment of the sale-proceeds in Government promissory notes. That is certainly good. But the loss at which the jewels are being sold ought to be taken into consideration.

26. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th November says that the frequent complaints made by the people of Indore against the Civil and Criminal Courts of that State are a proof of the inefficiency of the local judicial officers. Some residents of that State went so far as to petition the Viceroy against the aforesaid officers. The Viceroy has, however, declined to interfere in the matter, and thereby displayed his highmindedness as well as his dislike to meddle in the internal affairs of Native States.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Nov. 24th, 1902.

27. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 25th November regrets that the Resident of Hyderabad often loses his temper when any native gentleman passes by him without making his *salaam*. He is of so hot a temper that even the Nizam and his chief functionaries fear him. On one occasion he made over a soldier of the Nizam's regiment to police custody for not salaaming him. If the Resident is so fond of *salaam*, he ought to have, when driving or walking, a herald before him to compel passers-by to make obeisance to him.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Nov. 25th, 1902.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

28. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th November says that Sir John Woodburn is a noble-minded and perfect gentleman, and the fact that he never treats anybody to harsh words has led the public to believe that he is too weak to condignly punish his subordinates for wrong-doing. But although a remarkably tender-hearted man, still many instances of his firmness and strong love of justice have come to light. It was Sir John Woodburn who baffled the conspiracy that had been made to prevent Dr. P. K. Rai's temporary appointment to the Principalship of the Presidency College and appointed the right man to the right place. He evinced similar impartiality in dealing with the question of deputing Dr. J. C. Bose to Europe a second time when certain narrow-minded European officials who had been made uneasy by that native savant's increasing fame were trying to stand in his way.

SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 20th, 1902.

But the most striking proof of Sir John Woodburn's firmness and strength of mind was furnished by his plague administration in Calcutta. What fear and uneasiness came upon the country when the plague first broke out in the metropolis! The Europeans in India lost their sense, and panic-stricken as they were, they loudly demanded the compulsory segregation and detention of plague patients in places far away from their homes, and the destruction by fire of their houses and goods and chattels. Not a few Provincial Administrations were, with the aid of the police and the soldiery, forcibly separating wives from husbands and children from parents, and sending them to plague hospitals. All India had become uneasy and agitated. Even the Government of India was favouring a policy of *rubberdust*, a policy, that is, the adoption of which in Bombay had produced sanguinary riots and affrays. It was at this time that, alone among the Provincial Governors, Sir John stood out for a lenient treatment of the sufferers, and by his policy of kindness and sympathy succeeded in pacifying a people who had been driven mad by fear.

Yet another proof of the Lieutenant-Governor's strong love of justice is furnished by the way in which he dealt with the question of the election by the District Board of Comilla of Maulavi Serajul Islam for a seat in the Bengal

Council. He did not in this connection fail to censure the conduct of both the Divisional Commissioner and the District Magistrate.

NAVA YUG,  
Nov. 22nd, 1902.

29. In noticing the death of Sir John Woodburn, the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November says:—

The late Sir John Woodburn. It is doubtful if another affable, courteous and noble-minded Lieutenant-Governor like Sir John Woodburn ever sat on the *musnad* of Bengal. May Sir John's soul rest in peace!

RANGALAYA,  
Nov. 22nd, 1902.

30. In continuation from its last issue, [Report on Native Papers for the 22nd November, paragraph 24,] the *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November publishes the following in English:—

MY LORD,—

It seems your Secretary Mr. Risley's letter communicating your views on the most important recommendations of the Universities Commission, has had the desired effect. The Leader of the Opposition, himself a consummate master in the art of stringing together high-sounding words and protestations and lofty declamations, seems to have been dazzled by a richer and more captivating display of the same by a "superior person." And just now there is a lull in the Press and on the platform, which bids fair to last till the spell is broken.

My Lord, let me explain myself. The voice of the country went forth to denounce the recommendations of the Commission relating to the fixing of a minimum fee, as calculated to shut out the poorer students from the benefit of high education. In reply, your Secretary Mr. Risley says that the denunciation was evidently based on a "misapprehension," and that you would never agree to make high education "a monopoly of the rich." But in the same breath your Secretary Mr. Risley argues that a low rate of fees means "inadequate" salaries to professors, which again means "inferior" education; and your Secretary concludes that the maintenance of the existing rate of fees is possible and permissible *only* if the rich men of the country should come forward to help the private colleges and schools with large endowments, which, to say the least of it, is an impossible condition. So, the doom of the poorer students is sealed.

My Lord, your Secretary Mr. Risley makes a very large assumption and bases his conclusions on it, cleverly avoiding to give it the prominent place it deserves. He assumes that because professors and teachers in private colleges and schools are paid "inadequately," the instruction they impart must be of an "inferior" quality. Now I admit readily that a professor in a Government college or even an aided college gets a larger salary than a professor,—of equal merit, ability, and academic attainments,—in a private college. But can it stand to reason, I ask in all seriousness, that because the latter is thus comparatively "inadequately" paid, the instruction he imparts must, as a matter of course, be of an "inferior" quality? How many professors are there in the Government or aided colleges who can favourably compare with the late Mr. P. K. Lahiry or Babu Gouri Sanker Dé, or Mr. N. N. Ghosh, not to name several others? To say that the instruction they impart is of an "inferior" quality simply because they are paid "inadequately" is to strangle the truth—to raise false issues.

My Lord, a very apposite parallel just now occurs to me. Now-a-days natives of India of proved merit and ability, belonging to the Subordinate Judicial and Executive Services are being appointed as District Judges and District Magistrates; but their pay is lower than that allowed to members of the Indian Civil Service holding those very appointments. In this sense, the uncovenanted District Judges and District Magistrates must be said to be "inadequately" paid. But will your Lordship hold that the justice which these officers administer is of an "inferior" quality because of the 'inadequate' pay? As in this, so in the case of the professors of private colleges, the pay is regulated, like the price of so many commodities in the market, by the inexorable law of demand and supply. And it were well if your Secretary Mr. Risley had been careful not to palm off this piece of apparent sophistry on the intelligent public.

31. The *Yantra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November laments the death of Sir John Woodburn, and says that in him Bengal has lost one of its best governors. His plague policy and the ability and moderation with which he managed the Tala riot will cause his name to be ever remembered with gratitude by Bengalis. The Pennell affair is, like the spot in the moon, the only blemish in Sir John Woodburn's administration.

YANTRA,  
Nov. 22nd, 1902.

32. In noticing Sir John Woodburn's death, the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 23rd November says:—

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Nov. 23rd, 1902.

The late Sir John Woodburn. It was because Sir John Woodburn was a large-hearted and affectionate ruler that the people of Bengal are looking upon his death as the death of a friend and are overwhelmed with grief at the loss. Since his appointment to the *musnud* of Bengal, there never was an occasion when Sir John Woodburn did not express his sympathy with the people of the province, and the sorrows of his people never failed to touch his pious heart. Bengal has had the good fortune to receive from few Lieutenant-Governors such kind and courteous treatment as she did from Sir John Woodburn in the matter of plague administration. It is true that with all his sympathy with the subject people he did nothing worth special mention for their good. But that was because the hands of a provincial ruler are not unfettered in matters of importance. It will, however, be universally admitted that though the name of the late Lieutenant-Governor is not connected with any special good work, it is perfectly free from stain of any kind.

33. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th November contains a photograph of the late Sir John Woodburn, to which is appended the following note:—

PRATIVASI,  
Nov. 24th, 1902.

The late Sir John Woodburn. That kind-hearted Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Woodburn, K.C.S.I., owing to whom the rigorous Plague Regulations failed to dry up the Bengali's heart's blood, who wanted to resign his office of Lieutenant-Governor when the Government of India desired to enforce the Plague Regulations; who used to seat himself by the bedside of plague patients and to console and comfort them; who told the people of this country that as his family had for three generations eaten their salt, he would knowingly do them no harm; whose face always wore a smiling expression, is no longer in the land of the living. It is now that the Bengali feels and suffers the sorrow that people experience when death removes from their midst a ruler worthy of the name.

34. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 25th November says that during his Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, Sir John Woodburn won every heart in Bengal, and the people of that province owe him an everlasting debt of gratitude. The news of his death has been heard with deep sorrow in every Bengali household. May God grant peace to his departed soul and solace to his bereaved relations!

NIHAR,  
Nov. 25th, 1902.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

35. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th November states that the sky is clear, rain is scarce, and cold is being sensibly felt.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Nov. 5th, 1902.

The weather in Orissa. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th November makes a similar statement, and adds that the cold has become less severe on account of the appearance of clouds in the sky.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Nov. 15th, 1902.

36. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th November states that the health of the Cuttack town is good. The Puri correspondent of the same paper says that fever and ague are raging virulently in that town.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Nov. 15th, 1902.

37. The same paper states that several mad jackals have bitten several persons in the Puri town and have thus caused great terror among the residents of that town. Two or three of these jackals have, however, been killed.

UTKALDIPIKA.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Nov. 13th, 1902.

38. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 13th November is clearly of opinion that a loss of a 4-anna crop in the Balasore district may be attributed to the unexpected drought that prevailed during the last two months.

Prospects of the crops in the Balasore district.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

39. In alluding to the petition, submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General by Mr. Khorsedji Sorabji Yusawali of Bombay, praying for the prohibition of slaughter of cows and she-buffaloes for purposes

The memorial relating to the slaughter of cows, &c., in India.

of meat, the same paper observes that the petition is a useful and reasonable one, and that it ought to commend itself to the minds of all Indians. The writer argues that as the indiscriminate slaughter of the female members of the bovine species is strictly forbidden in England, it is quite iniquitous to follow a different practice in India, where the demand for such animals is by far the greater.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Nov. 15th, 1902.

40. Referring to the attempt of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji to get himself elected once more as a member of the British Parliament, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th November observes that it will be a matter of great joy if he succeeds in his attempt, for he is a true patriot, an experienced politician, and an able debater, and did great service to India as a member of Parliament.

Mr. Naoroji's candidature for election to Parliament.

UTKALDIPIKA.

41. Referring to the proposed appointment of additional Sub-Inspectors of Schools in Orissa, and to the discussion which is in progress on that subject, the same paper remarks that as the graduates of Orissa are the only eligible candidates under the rules prescribed for the purpose, and as their number is not inconsiderable, there need not be so much discussion on the subject.

Additional Sub-Inspectors of Schools in Orissa.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Nov. 12th, 1902.

42. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 12th November, however, most strenuously pleads the cause of the Head-masters of the Middle English Schools, and of the teachers of the Higher English Schools, who by their success, ability and experience have made themselves eminently fitted to take immediate charge of the duties of Sub-Inspectors of Schools.

Who should get the additional Sub-Inspectorships.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Nov. 15th, 1902.

43. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th November has every sympathy with the proceedings of the Cuttack Coronation Committee that has taken up the question of a local darbar in right earnest. It is said that the Committee hope to make the ensuing darbar a more successful one than the darbar of 1877.

A Coronation darbar at Cuttack.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Nov. 12th, 1902.

44. Referring to the Uriya-Bengali question, discussed in the columns of the *Utkaldipika*, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore], of the 12th instant, states that it is not fair to deny the existence of certain differences of opinion between the Uriyas and the Bengalis, which, though not visible to the superficial observer, may be found out by careful scrutiny. The writer, however, agrees with the *Utkaldipika* that the domiciled Bengalis should be looked upon as Uriyas, and should have their share of the public patronage in due time.

Uriyas and Bengalis in Orissa.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

45. The same paper abuses the Balasore Municipality for their neglect of duty, and draws the attention of the District Collector to the same.

The Balasore Municipality.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK,  
Nov. 17th, 1902.

46. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 17th November is glad that Mr. Fuller confirmed in the Chief Commissionership of Assam.

Mr. Fuller confirmed in the Chief Commissionership of Assam.

PARIDARSAK.

47. The same paper says that a large number of counterfeit rupees has got into circulation in the Sylhet district. It is rumoured that some bad men are making these counterfeit coins. A strict inquiry should be instituted into the matter.

Counterfeit coins in the Sylhet district.

PARIDARSAK.

48. The same paper says that cholera has made its appearance in many places in the Sylhet district, and numbers are being carried away by it. One death from cholera recently occurred in the house of Radha Binod Das, a pleader.

Cholera in the Sylhet district.

49. The same paper says that the income-tax should be collected in two instalments during the year, instead of in one, as at present, and that each tax-payer should be served with a demand notice one month previous to the date of payment. The non-existence of these arrangements causes great hardship to the tax-payers.

PARIDARSAK,  
Nov. 17th 1902.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 29th November, 1902.*

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
*Bengali Translator.*

